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RiverClan

Leader **Waterstar-** Blue-grey tom with green eyes

Deputy **Thornwillow-** Very pale she-cat with amber eyes

Medicine Cat **Rushingwater-** Blue-grey tom with brown stripes and yellow eyes

Warriors

Seabreeze- *Old,* Beautiful tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

Fishpelt- *Old,* Brown long-haired tom with amber eyes **Mate, Yellowtail**

Splashflight- Blue-grey she-cat with amber eyes

Toothjaw- Grey long-haired tabby tom with amber eyes **Apprentice, Rosepaw**

Streamfrost- Light blueish-grey she-cat with green eyes

Fluffheart- Orange tom with brown eyes

Redwhisker- *Old,* Reddish-colored tom with pale blue eyes **Mate, Willowfur**

Puffertail- Orange tom with green eyes

Duskclaw- Reddish tabby tom with green eyes **Apprentice, Shinepaw**

Apprentices

Rosepaw- Cream-colored she-cat with brown eyes

Shinepaw- Golden-colored tom with brown eyes

Queens

Yellowtail- Grey she-cat with yellow eyes

Willowfur- Brown she-cat with green eyes

Sweetpelt- Cream-colored she-cat with brown eyes

Elders

Aquastorm- White she-cat with black stripes on her face and blue eyes

Saptail- Orange-colored she-cat with brown eyes

Firepool- Ginger tom with amber eyes

💝Prologue💝

Mothstar sat down at the edge of StarClan's territory, looking at the Dark Forest beyond. She began tearing up the grass at her claws with fury.

"Mothstar?"

Mothstar whipped around to see Calmstar and Sunfur.

"What do you want?" Mothstar questioned.

Sunfur narrowed his brown eyes. "You know she's innocent. You must send a message."

Mothstar rolled her eyes. "To Waterstar?"

Sunfur let out a low growl. "Waterstar's the one that sent me here in the first place. He wouldn't care about the message one bit. We need someone that we can trust. Someone who doesn't know Goldenflow at all."

Calmstar's eyes flashed. "There are four. But only one shall receive the message."

"Who?" Mothstar asked.

"That's for you to decide," Sunfur meowed. "But you must hurry. Time is running out."

Mothstar closed her eyes. A cat flashed in her vision. That's the cat to who she'll send the message!

"I have chosen. I shall send it as soon as I can."

Sunfur and Calmstar nodded and left Mothstar sitting alone.

💝Chapter 1💝

"May all cats old enough to swim gather underneath the willow tree for a Clan meeting!" Waterstar yowled.

Splashpaw and Streampaw bounded eagerly towards the willow tree. Their siblings - Fluffpaw and Pufferpaw - were excited too. This was it, their warrior ceremony.

Splashpaw looked for her mentor, Firepool. The ginger tom looked fragile as if he was planning on retiring.

"Redwhisker, is Streampaw ready to become a warrior?" Waterstar questioned.

"She is," Redwhisker replied.

"Firepool, is Splashpaw ready to become a warrior?"

Firepool dipped his head. "She is,"

"Aquastorm, is Fluffpaw ready to become a warrior?"

"He is. He's trained hard."

Waterstar nodded and glanced at Seabreeze.

"Is Pufferpaw ready to become a warrior?"

Seabreeze stared into the leader's eyes. "I couldn't be prouder."

Waterstar sighed and spoke. "I, Waterstar, leader of RiverClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn."

"Streampaw, Splashpaw, Fluffpaw, and Pufferpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

All four apprentices spoke loud and clear. "I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior names. Streampaw, from this moment on you will be known as Streamfrost. StarClan honors your courage and intelligence, and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan. Splashpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Splashflight. StarClan honors your energy and determination, and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan. Fluffpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Fluffheart. StarClan honors your compassion and spirit, and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan. Pufferpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Puffertail. StarClan honors your skill in battle and loyalty, and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan."

"Streamfrost! Splashflight! Fluffheart! Puffertail!" the Clan cheered.

"These warriors shall guard our camp while we sleep tonight. But first, we shall feast on the prey Greenleaf brought us."

"But before we do that, three warriors have something to say," Waterstar added.

Aquastorm, Saptail, and Firepool came forward.

"We would like to retire. We have served our Clan for many moons." Saptail meowed.

Waterstar nodded in understanding. "Is it your wish to give up the name of a warrior and go to join the elders?" he asked.

All three senior warriors nodded. "It is."

"Your Clan honors you and all the service you have given to us. I call upon my warrior ancestors to give you many moons of rest." Waterstar finished.

"Saptail! Aquastorm! Firepool!" the Clan cheered.

The retired warriors headed towards the elders den, which has been empty since Sunpelt and Mosswhisker died of old age a few moons ago.

As Waterstar ended the Clan meeting, Splashflight sighed. She was ready to start the life of a warrior.

💗Chapter 2💗

The night was cold, and Splashflight was bored out of her mind. *At least I have company.* She thought. She pitied Duskclaw: he had to sit vigil alone. He used to have a sister, but she died under mysterious circumstances.

Her sister, Streamfrost, nudged her. Splashflight almost broke the vigil by almost saying 'what?'.

Streamfrost twitched her whiskers in amusement. *Oh yeah, how funny.*

Splashflight looked at her other littermates. Fluffheart looked like he was in his own world, while Puffertail looked like he was about to fall asleep. Splashflight shivered. Why did they have to be named warriors in leaf-bare?

Suddenly, she saw a shadow dart across the clearing. *Invasion? No, it's just one cat.* But by the scent, it wasn't a Clan cat. Rogue! Splashflight pricked her ears as she heard mewling. The cat had kits. The rogue patted towards the clearing, and for once Splashflight saw what it looked like. It was a white she-cat, with four kits in her mouth. The she-cat was panting, so she dropped them. Before she could lay down, Puffertail yowled the alarm. *No!* Splashflight snarled at him in her mind. *Why would you do that? She's harmless!*

Warriors started to spill from the warriors den, fur bristling and eyes darting from side to side. Waterstar poked his head out from his den. The rogue noticed this and fled, leaving her kits there.

"Wait! Your kits are here!" Duskclaw yowled. But it was too late. The she-cat was long gone.

"What happened?" Waterstar meowed as he came cantering towards them. "And where did these bundles of fur come from?" he added as he rested his eyes on the four kits.

"A she-cat came here to rest, but panicked when we came out - she forgot her kits in the process," Duskclaw answered.

Waterstar sighed. "Well, we can't abandon them, so we'll have to take them in. They're too young to know that they're not clanborn. Duskclaw, take these kits to the nursery. We'll hold their ceremony in the morning."

Duskclaw dipped his head and picked up the kits one by one and headed towards the nursery.

Just then, Toothjaw came bounding over.

"You four still need to watch over the camp you know. Your vigil isn't over yet." He reminded them.

Splashflight wished that she could snap at him for being bossy.

Waterstar twitched his whiskers in annoyance.

"I'm the leader here, Toothjaw. But yes, your vigil isn't over yet. Let us pray that we don't run into any other trouble."

Splashflight and her littermates nodded in agreement.

Splashflight stifled a yawn. It was going to be a long night.

💗Chapter 3💗

Dawn finally arrived after what felt like moons. Splashflight waited impatiently for Thornwillow or Waterstar to tell them that their vigil was over. She couldn't wait to finally get to sleep in the warriors den! Splashflight couldn't suppress a purr of joy when Thornwillow patted toward them. Her whiskers twitched in amusement at their impatience.

"You may speak now: your vigil has ended."

Splashflight was just about to rush to the warriors den when Waterstar called a Clan meeting.

Ugh, I forgot: it's the kits ceremony!

"Yesterday a wild queen left her four kits here. These kits belong to us. These kits are RiverClan!"

Cheers erupted from the cats.

Waterstar waited for silence. "I have thought of names. The white she-kit will now be called Lightkit, the black tom shall be called Darkkit, the black and white she-kit shall be called Soulkit, and the pale colored one shall be called Palekit."

No cat objected.

"Then it's settled. Willowfur, Yellowtail and Sweetpelt, would you mind if you took care of them? Luckily, they've outgrown milk already so you don't need to worry about that."

The queens nodded. "We would love to take care of them. No kit deserves to die. Clan or not," Willowfur meowed.

"Then this Clan meeting is over." Waterstar leaped off the branch of the willow tree.

Streamfrost came up to Splashflight. "I'm so tired that I could sleep

for a moon!" she exclaimed.

Splashflight flicked her tail in agreement.

"Are you okay? You seem unusually quiet." Streamfrost meowed.

"I'm fine. Just tired." Splashflight replied.

"Well, alright. Let's go sleep."

...

Splashflight woke up in a beautiful clearing. Green grass, blue skies, and healthy trees. *Wow, this is one dream I'm having.*

Hello," an unfamiliar voice came from behind her.

"I have been waiting for you." The voice continued.

Splashflight spun around. A brown she-cat with freckles near her brown eyes stood there.

"Who are you?" Splashflight questioned.

"You don't know me?" a bright star appeared on her forehead.

Splashflight gasped. "You're a leader! But I still don't know who you are."

The she-cat looked thoughtful. "You were only a kit. Of course, you don't know me. My name is Mothstar, leader before *Waterstar."*

Mothstar spat the name in disgust. Splashflight felt a flash of anger. That was her father!

"Hey! You don't talk about my father like that!"

Mothstar laughed. "How innocent you are. You think your father is perfect, don't you? Well, you're about to find out how villainous he really is."

"Mothstar, stop!" a new voice came from a cream-colored tom cantering towards them.

Mothstar hissed angrily at him. "What are you doing?"

"Splashflight only needs to know one thing: Goldenflow didn't kill you." The tom meowed.

Splashflight didn't believe her ears. "Who's Goldenflow?" she asked.

Both cats turned towards her. "She's the old medicine cat. Just ask your clanmates," Mothstar meowed. "They'll reveal everything."

...

"Splashflight! Wake up! You're on a hunting patrol!" Streamfrost's mew woke Splashflight up.

"Hold on, I'm coming," Splashflight murmured groggily.

She couldn't beleibe it! Her dream was in StarClan! It must have been real! But then, who's Goldenflow? Maybe Saptail knows.

Oh StarClan, you made the right choice picking me for this job! I'll make sure I'll discover every secret there is! No matter the cost.

💗Chapter 4💗

Splashflight got into a crouch, coming closer to the unsuspecting mouse. At the last second, the breeze changed directions, and the mouse immediately scuttled off into the distance.

"No! Get back here you fox-dung!" Splashflight gave chase, sending snow everywhere. But she wasn't a WindClan cat, so the mouse escaped with minutes to spare.

"Splashflight! You just scared all the prey from here to the horseplace!"

Splashflight lowered her head in shame and embarrassment.

"Sorry, Redwhisker."

Redwhisker shook his head.

"Seabreeze and Fluffheart haven't caught anything either. If we don't catch prey soon, RiverClan will starve."

Splashflight sighed sadly. She couldn't even eat breakfast this morning because the kits and elders had to eat first.

The nearby bushes rustled and Seabreeze and Fluffheart came out with a mouse each in their jaws.

"That's it?" Redwhisker meowed in disbelief.

They both nodded. Splashflight felt dismay chill through her spine. If this kept on, warriors would starve.

...

Cats stared in shock as the hunting patrol entered the camp. Pity ran through Splashflight when she saw Duskclaw, Fishpelt, and Toothjaw crouched desperately beside the fresh-kill pile, waiting for the hunting patrol. Their mouths watered as Seabreeze and

Fluffheart came closer with the mice hanging from their jaws. Hunger gleamed in each of their eyes.

As soon as the two mice were dropped, all three warriors dived in and started fighting with claws unsheathed over who gets the food.

"It's mine!" Duskclaw snarled as he dangled a mouse out of reach. Fishpelt tried desperately to reach it. Toothjaw had the other mouse in his jaws. They all had claw marks on their pelts.

"What's going on here!? A meal fight? I thought warriors knew better than apprentices!" Waterstar's voice boomed from across the clearing.

Waterstar marched right over to them and snatched the mouse right out of Duskclaw's claws.

"This piece of prey is not 'yours'. Does it have your name on it?" Waterstar demanded.

"No, Waterstar. I was just hungry-"

Waterstar hissed in the middle of Duskclaw's mew.

"Oh yeah, tell me something I don't know. You're not the only one that's hungry around here. Also, Fishpelt has been a warrior way longer than you. He's a senior warrior for StarClan's sake! Can't you show a little respect to your elders? Fishpelt deserves this mouse more than you do. And now, go to the warriors den to think about how disrespectful you were."

Duskclaw sat there, stunned. Then he gave a little hiss and stalked to the warriors den.

Toothjaw was about to bite into his own mouse when Waterstar stopped him.

"You think you can get away with that? You can go to the warriors den too. And also, give this mouse to Seabreeze. Senior warriors deserve some respect."

Toothjaw dipped his head and patted towards Seabreeze.

"At least he didn't argue," Waterstar muttered to himself.

To Splashflight's surprise, he turned towards Fluffheart.

"Can you tell Duskclaw that I have the power to make him an apprentice again? I'm sure that will make him listen." Waterstar ordered with a hint of humor in his voice.

Fluffheart nodded eagerly and bounded toward the warriors den.

A few minutes later a enraged yowl filled the camp, followed with muffled snarls. Fluffheart came out a moment later, his fur bristling.

"No one better go in there. Duskclaw is officially broken." He warned.

Everyone let out purrs of amusement. Until another yowl filled the air. And it wasn't Duskclaw.

💝Chapter 5💝

Ugh, what now?

Puffertail came sprinting into camp. He was covered in blood. Cats around Splashflight gasped in horror.

Waterstar stepped forward. "What happened, Puffertail?"

"I took Streamfrost on a hunt but we ran into a grown fox. Streamfrost is badly injured. You need to come quickly!"

Waterstar nodded. Splashflight just stared in horror.

"Splashflight, Fluffheart, and Toothjaw, go retrieve Streamfrost's body. Puffertail, go worn Rushingwater to prepare herbs."

As soon as Waterstar was done talking, Splashflight sprinted to the exit of the camp with Fluffheart and Toothjaw right behind her.

...

"Is she going to be okay?" Splashflight questioned anxiously.

Rushingwater narrowed his eyes. "Yes, she should live." He meowed.

Splashflight sighed in relief. Then a question popped into her head.

"Do you know Goldenflow?"

Rushingwater froze. "Why?" he asked suspiciously.

"I'm just curious," Splashflight replied.

"How do you know Goldenflow?" Rushingwater inquired.

Splashflight froze. She knew that she should tell him about her dream, but something told her not to.

"Waterstar told me about her." She lied. Rushingwater looked taken aback about this.

"Well, I don't really know anything about her." He meowed. "You should just forget about her."

Inside, Splashflight wasn't convinced. *There's something that he's not telling me.*

But out loud she said, "Alright."

Rushingwater looked satisfied. "You may go. Streamfrost needs rest."

...

Splashflight patted toward the elders den. She needed to talk to her mother, Saptail. She might know something about Goldenflow. But why did StarClan choose to talk to her? Maybe something about destiny... wait!

Splashflight's eyes lit up. She knew what her destiny was! She needed to find the old RiverClan medicine cat! But she didn't know anything about her. *Maybe my mother knows.*

"Saptail?" Splashflight called as she entered the elders den. Her mother looked up from her claws. Aquastorm wasn't there.

"Splashflight! What can I do for you?"

"Well, I wanted to know about the medicine cat before Rushingwater."

Saptail's eyes narrowed suspiciously. "Why do you want to know about Goldenflow?"

"Um... well, I was just interested I guess."

"Well, the only thing you need to know is that she was a murderer!" Saptail snapped.

Splashflight froze in shock. *Our former medicine cat was a murderer!?*

"What do you mean?" she asked.

Saptail hissed furiously. Firepool looked down at his paws.

"She killed Mothstar, our old leader!" Saptail spat.

Firepool met her gaze. "You were best friends, Saptail. At least tell your daughter some good things about Goldenflow."

Saptail glaired at him. "You go first."

"Fine. I remember when she healed my leg when I cut it while almost drowning. I remember when she kept scolding me about me showing my pain. Also, can I tell you a story?"

Splashflight nodded.

"Well, a long time ago..."

"Ow!" Firepaw yowled. He had a thorn in his pad. His mentor, Sunpelt, rolled his eyes. "Better go see Flowerdapple."

Firepaw patted toward the medicine den. He only saw Goldenpaw.

"What happened now?" Goldenpaw mewed mockingly.

"Got a thorn in my pad. It hurts."

"Well, come on in then. You're not going to sit out there all day." Goldenpaw turned to get some herbs. Firepaw patted in and sat down.

"Ok, now stay very still," Goldenpaw instructed.

Firepaw stayed still, just as she ordered.

"OW!" he yowled as Goldenpaw rubbed something on his wound. She rolled her eyes.

"I thought warriors should suffer their pain silently, remember? Just like what you told me the other day?" Goldenpaw mocked.

"Well, maybe medicine cats have to suffer their pain silently too!" Firepaw shot back.

Goldenpaw scoffed. "Comebacks. That's all warriors know how to say these days."

Firepaw didn't bother to argue. Goldenpaw was too good at arguments.

"Wow, you're smarter than you look. You didn't bother to argue, unlike the last time. But you know, warriors can't save their Clan if they have to come to the medicine den after every wound." Goldenpaw meowed.

"At least warriors can do something to save their Clan," Firepaw muttered.

"Are you mouse-brained? Do you know what medicine is for? Saving lives. Don't you think that saves the Clan? When I'm a full medicine cat, I will serve this Clan until I die!"

When Firepool finished the story, Splashflight felt as if she was going to explode. They had it all wrong! Goldenflow didn't kill Mothstar! But if she didn't, then who did?

💗Chapter 6💗

With a sigh, Splashflight trotted out of the elders den. Saptail is hopeless. And Firepool... well, he was kinda useless. She needed to find Goldenflow. Oh, wait. She's probably dead. And Splashflight didn't want to visit the Dark Forest. Maybe StarClan was wrong: maybe Goldenflow did kill Mothstar. *Why me?* Splashflight complained. *Why not Waterstar? Or Rushingwater? Or the senior warriors? But no, they had to pick a newly made warrior that just wanted a normal life. Typical StarClan.*

"Pssst."

Splashflight stopped in the middle of the clearing. Then she spotted Fluffheart in a bramble bush.

"What in StarClan are you doing in there?" Splashflight questioned.

"I wanted to tell you something. Can you keep an eye on Puffertail?"

"Puffertail? Why?"

"He's been acting strange," Fluffheart explained. "He keeps bringing in a ton of prey at dusk. More than all the hunting patrols altogether. He says that he's just a great hunter, but I think there's more to it."

"And why do *I* have to do this?"

"Well, because..." Fluffheart trailed off uncertainly.

"It's alright. I'll keep an eye on him. You should relax." Splashflight mewed.

"Thank you. This means a lot to me."

"And me too," Splashflight retorted. "He's my brother too."

The two siblings nodded to each other and went separate ways.

...

Duskclaw's snoring woke Splashflight up. She blinked sleepily at the darkness. Suddenly, she heard a cat get up from its nest. Splashflight perked her ears up. The cat silently creeped out of the warriors den. Splashflight followed after it.

She realized who it was after she got a good look at it. It was Puffertail! What was he doing in the middle of the night? Probably nothing good.

Puffertail was heading towards the ShadowClan border. *What in StarClan is he doing?* Splashflight asked herself.

A few moments later, Puffertail stopped and dropped something out of his mouth. They had arrived at the border: ShadowClan scent was strong. *Too strong. There are cats somewhere!*

To Splashflight's shock, two ShadowClan cats came from the other side of the border. One was a white she-cat with dazzling green eyes, while the other one was a tom that had a black pelt that blended in the darkness and his blue eyes shimmered.

Puffertail dipped his head. "Cloudsky, Darkfall."

Cloudsky narrowed her green eyes. "Did you do it?"

Do what?

"Yes, I did." Puffertail mewed proudly.

"Proof." Was all Darkfall said.

Puffertail let out a growl but picked up some fox fur and a cat's fur. *Streamfrost's fur! What had Puffertail done?*

Darkfall and Cloudsky nodded approvingly. "Good. Cloudsky will bring you prey after the gathering." Darkfall meowed before he and Cloudsky left.

Wait, it all makes sense. Puffertail has been doing things for the ShadowClan cats in exchange for a lot of prey! But why do ShadowClan

cats care about what happens in RiverClan? But I could spy on them. The gathering's tomorrow.

...

"The cats going to the gathering are Fishpelt, Streamfrost, Splashflight, Fluffheart, Puffertail, and Duskclaw. We will be leaving immediately."

Waterstar jumped off the willow tree and patted out of camp with the patrol right behind him. Rushingwater was also with them, and Thornwillow as well. Luckily, Streamfrost had recovered right before the gathering, but Rushingwater still told her to stay out of trouble.

"We're the last ones to arrive!" Streamfrost exclaimed In disbelief as they jumped onto the log. Splashflight scented the air. WindClan, ShadowClan, and ThunderClan scent was at the island already. By the time the whole patrol got to the island, the other Clans were murmuring impatiently.

"Finally! Did their fat bodies slow them down?"

"RiverClan is always last!"

"Maybe they have better things to do."

The whispers surrounded Splashflight as she sat next to her sister. "You know, ever since I got attacked by that fox, I've been getting bellyaches every day now." Streamfrost mewed. "I've been getting chervil from Rushingwater but they keep coming back. I don't know what to do."

Splashflight froze. A very, very, bad thought popped into her head right that moment. What if... Puffertail had mated with her sister!?

💝Chapter 7💝

Earthstar's yowl sounded through the clearing before Splashflight could give the thought some thinking. *Mouse-dung!* She wanted to talk to someone.

"Cats of all Clans! Welcome to the gathering!" Featherstar, WindClan's leader, yowled.

"May I speak first?" Icystar, the leader of ShadowClan, asked.

"No, I will speak first," Earthstar shot back and shoved Icystar so hard that with a screech, she fell off the great oak. "No she-cat will speak before toms."

Yowls of fury and shock arose from all the Clans, mostly ShadowClan. Frostcloud, ShadowClan's deputy, raced over to Icystar. Their medicine cat, Blackwing, followed. Icystar lay there, unconscious.

Earthstar glared at her. "You're not a leader, *Icywing."*

"Nor are you, *Earthclaw."* Icystar hissed as she miraculously got up. Earthstar stared in disbelief.

"But-"

Icystar interrupted him with a hiss. "You know, StarClan hasn't covered the moon yet. I could murder you in cold blood, and I don't care if StarClan stops me."

"She-cats are not capable of killing. They have too much pity." Earthstar mocked.

Featherstar and Waterstar were watching this with anxiety and suspension.

"You want to know what pity is? Oh, too bad you never learned about it." Icystar meowed, shaking in rage.

Before Earthstar could reply, she leaped on top of him and slashed his throat. Earthstar's eyes went blank and he toppled off the great oak. ThunderClan stared in horror.

"That's not his last life is it?" Splashflight whispered to Streamfrost.

Her sister just shrugged. Suddenly Oakflight looked to the sky and yowled in alarm.

"StarClan does not object to this!"

Gasps and murmurs of alarm spread through the crowd.

"It's not his last life!" a ThunderClan cat named Pinetail exclaimed.

All gazes looked on Earthstar as he staggered up from his trance. His eyes were flashing with rage and something else Splashflight couldn't put her paw on.

"Does ThunderClan have any *actual* news?" a WindClan cat asked timidly.

Earthstar let out a low growl but replied with a shake of his head. Icystar snarled with disgust.

"Alright, I'll go next if no one has a problem with it." Icystar mewed with a glare at the other leaders. They quickly shook their heads, not wanting to face Icystar's wrath.

"ShadowClan has two new warriors: Cloudsky and Darkfall."

The cats stared blankly, Splashflight included.

"They used to be rogues," Icystar added with a touch of annoyance to her mew. "ShadowClan has nothing else to report."

"Cloudsky! Darkfall!"

"Prey has been well in WindClan. We have no more news." Featherstar announced.

At last, Waterstar cleared his throat.

"RiverClan has four new warriors: Streamfrost, Splashflight, Fluffheart, and Puffertail."

"Streamfrost! Splashflight! Fluffheart! Puffertail!"

Splashflight held her head high. Meanwhile, Streamfrost did the exact opposite.

"RiverClan has nothing else to report." Waterstar finished.

"Then that concludes our gathering." Featherstar meowed as he leaped off the great oak. "WindClan! Come with me!"

"ShadowClan! Follow me!" Icystar yowled.

"ThunderClan! Get over here!" Earthstar growled.

"RiverClan! Time to go!" Waterstar meowed.

Before Splashflight turned to leave, she saw Puffertail nod at Cloudsky. *That used to be a rogue,* Splashflight thought. *Why did they join the Clans?*

Something told her that it was more than curiosity.

💗Chapter 8💗

Splashflight followed Puffertail through RiverClan territory. *He must be going to meet Cloudsky.* Splashflight realized. *I didn't imagine that little nod before.*

At last, Puffertail stopped right at the border. A few moments later, Cloudsky stepped out of the trees carrying two huge rabbits. Wow, that's a lot of prey! That could feed our Clan for days!

"That's my prey?" Puffertail exclaimed with disbelief.

"Now, you've got your apprentices to make you deputy. Now you just need to wait, and then get rid of Thornwillow." Cloudsky mewed, drawing a paw over her ear.

Splashflight's eyes widened. He's going to kill Thornwillow to become leader! But why?

"It should be easy. Waterstar has always favored me over the others. Then once I'm leader, I'll let you join RiverClan and we can be together." Puffertail meowed.

Splashflight couldn't believe what she was hearing. They were in *love* with each other?

"Also, you bringing in lots of prey makes you a better choice for deputyship. That's why I've been bringing prey to you." Cloudsky added.

Puffertail nodded, then narrowed his eyes. "Your brother doesn't know the real reason you're doing this, right?"

Cloudsky shook her head.

"Well, I need to bring this to camp. Bye." Puffertail announced.

Hurt flashed in Cloudsky's eyes. "Can't you stay a little bit longer?" she pleated.

"I don't want you to be discovered," Puffertail replied reasonably. "Because if you are, I'll never forgive myself."

Cloudsky blinked affectionately. "That warms me despite this cold weather," she meowed. "You can go. I want to stay here for a few moments."

Puffertail mewed a goodbye and bounded back to camp. But Splashflight didn't follow. She wanted to talk to Cloudsky.

Cloudsky's eyes widened and she let out a gasp when she saw Splashflight stalk up to her.

"H-how long have you been there?" Cloudsky stammered.

Splashflight let out a low growl. "I've been spying on your meetings. You can't have my brother!"

"He's your brother? Oh my! I'm so sorry! But he's so wonderful..." Cloudsky sighed dreamily.

"Enough! You are not to see him again! He doesn't deserve a forbidden relationship! He doesn't deserve *you!"* Splashflight snarled.

Cloudsky's eyes flashed with hurt. Then fury.

"HOW DARE YOU! IT'S NOT YOUR CHOICE! IF HE WANTS TO BE WITH ME, THEN HE WILL!" Cloudsky hissed in rage. Splashflight stepped back, stunned.

"You can't make choices for someone that isn't you. If this makes Puffertail and I happy, then we will continue meeting. Remember that." Cloudsky murmured.

Splashflight had nothing to say to that. Then something came into her mind.

"Where did you get those rabbits?"

Cloudsky snorted. "Where do you think? On the moor of course."

Splashflight's mouth gaped open. "You hunted on enemy territory!?" she cried in dismay.

Cloudsky shrugged. "What's the big deal?"

"But-but-" Splashflight cut herself off. *This used to be a rogue,* she told herself. *They don't care about the warrior code.*

"Are you sure you smell RiverClan?" a voice meowed from somewhere in the distance.

The ShadowClan dawn patrol!

Cloudsky stood up. "I need to go. It was a pleasure to meet you, wait, I don't know your name!"

"That doesn't matter! I need to go!" Splashflight mewed quickly. *That's the last thing I need, Cloudsky telling everyone about my spying!*

"See you next time!" Cloudsky meowed and then winked.

As she was racing through the land to get back to camp, she couldn't get Cloudsky out of her mind. What is that she-cat planning?

💝Chapter 9💝

"He's doing what!?"

Splashflight sighed. She knew that Fluffheart wouldn't take this well.

"Can you calm down? You want the whole Clan to hear you?" Splashflight demanded.

Fluffheart sighed. "Sorry, I'm just really worried about him... and you."

Splashflight was taken aback. "Me?" she mewed. "Why?"

"Well, because you're my sister," Fluffheart answered.

Before Splashflight could respond, Thornwillow's voice echoed through the clearing. "Splashflight!"

Splashflight mewed a quick goodbye to her brother and headed towards the deputy.

"Yes?"

Thornwillow narrowed her amber eyes. "You haven't been on any patrols lately." She meowed sternly.

"You haven't put me on any. That's not my fault." Splashflight retorted.

Thornwillow burst into laughter. Splashflight narrowed her eyes in confusion. "What's so funny?"

"I was just testing you," Thornwillow mewed.

"Testing me on *what?"* Splashflight hissed, getting impatient.

"Nevermind. I'm afraid that Rushingwater has brought me some bad

news," Thornwillow expertly dodged the question.

"Oh no... what is it?" Splashflight asked anxiously.

Thornwillow sighed. "Streamfrost is expecting kits."

Splashflight froze. The world was spinning around her. Maybe she hadn't heard properly.

"W-what?" was all she could get out.

"Maybe you should talk to Rushingwater," Thornwillow suggested nervously.

"You bet I will!" Splashflight's shock had turned to anger.

As she stalked to the medicine den, she saw Fluffheart's shocked expression through the brambles. He had heard everything.

Once she got to the medicine den, she heard Streamfrost's yowls of shock and disbelief.

"You must be wrong! I don't even have a mate! I haven't mated with anyone!"

Rushingwater's reply sounded like he didn't care at all.

"I'm a *medicine cat:* I know what the symptoms are. Now, you should go to the nursery."

"But I don't even know who the father is! And I don't wanna be stuck in the nursery all warriorhood!" Streamfrost wailed.

Rushingwater sighed in exasperation. Splashflight could imagine the patience lowering every second.

"Well, what do you want me to do about it? Magicly make your kits disappear? Now, just take these borage leaves." He hissed.

Splashflight watched as her sister stormed out of the den and headed towards the warriors den.

"What are you doing here?"

Splashflight found herself face to face with Rushingwater.

"Um... I wanted to know how Streamfrost is doing," she responded, thinking fast.

Rushingwater rolled his eyes. "She won't go into the nursery. She's too stubborn. Maybe she'll listen to you."

"Yeah, I'll go talk to her."

...

Splashflight walked into the warriors den to find Streamfrost sleeping peacefully. She almost didn't want to wake her, but Rushingwater was depending on her. *Wait, why do I care about him? He's done nothing for me. Oh well, I'm doing this for my sister anyway.*

"Streamfrost!"

"Huh?"

"You need to move into the nursery! It's the safest place for you!" Splashflight insisted.

"No! A warrior doesn't need safety." Streamfrost hissed.

"A warrior with kits does. How would you feel if your kits died?" Splashflight cried.

Streamfrost scoffed. "They won't. I'll make sure of that."

Realizing that she didn't want to argue with her sister anymore, Splashflight replied, "Just do what you think best."

Streamfrost nodded.

Flicking her tail anxiously, Splashflight turned and patted out of the den.

I can only hope that my sister knows what she's doing. Because no one can stop her.

💝Chapter 10💝

Before the time that Puffertail met Cloudsky, Splashflight sneaked out to find her. *Am I really doing this?* she pondered to herself. *Will I go to the Dark Forest? Dark Forest or not, one of the two needs to die. And it's not going to be my brother.*

Cloudsky always was there first, so there shouldn't be a problem. If everything goes well.

Splashflight crept through RiverClan territory, getting closer and closer to the ShadowClan border. Closer to victory.

Yes! Splashflight's heart leaped in joy as she spotted Cloudsky. The she-cat was sitting there patiently. *Probably has nothing better to do.* Splashflight thought.

She crouched, ready to spring. Splashflight looked at Cloudsky one last time. The she-cat had no idea that she was about to die.

Splashflight lunged toward Cloudsky. The she-cat let out a startled yowl and Splashflight pinned her down. Wow, that was easy.

Cloudsky struggled beneath Splashflight's paws.

"Time to die, code breaker." Splashflight snarled.

"Please l-let m-me go-" Cloudsky's plead was cut short when Splashflight delt the killing blow to her throat.

Cloudsky lay limp beneath her.

"How could you!?" an outraged growl came from behind Splashflight. She spun around.

"I did it for you, brother." Splashflight hissed.

Puffertail's eyes widened in horror. "Y-you murdered her!" he choked out.

"Well, how else would I stop you from breaking the warrior code?" Splashflight responded silkily.

Puffertail didn't reply. Instead, he lunged at her with unsheathed claws. Before Splashflight could react, a bright ginger blur passed in front of her, pushing Puffertail out of Splashflight's way. Fluffheart!

Fluffheart pinned Puffertail down. "How about you join your mate in StarClan?" he snarled.

Puffertail struggled to get free but failed. He instead clawd Fluffheart's belly. Fluffheart hissed in pain.

"Splashflight! End him!"

Splashflight hesitated. Could she really kill her own brother? *Yes, I can. He broke the warrior code and was planning to kill Thornwillow. It's for the best.*

Before she could change her mind, she padded over and raised a claw over Puffertail's neck. "Any last words?" she asked.

Puffertail shook his head.

"Fine, have it your way."

Splashflight slashed his throat open. Blood gushed out fast, and no one could get here in time to save him.

She sighed. Fluffheart seemed to read her mind.

It's over.

💝Chapter 11💝

Splashflight trotted back home with Fluffheart right behind her. They had buried Cloudsky and Puffertail's bodies and wished them endless love in StarClan.

"Do you think they'll suspect us?" Splashflight meowed.

Fluffheart shrugged. "I don't know. But if they find out, we'll leave together."

Splashflight purred. "Thanks, Fluffheart. I don't know what I'd do without you."

They entered the camp. *Looks like Waterstar called a Clan meeting,* Splashflight realized. *I wonder what's happening.*

Duskclaw narrowed his eyes as the two littermates came closer. "Where have you two been?"

"We went on a walk together," Fluffheart answered smoothly. "To get some fresh air. Why?"

Duskclaw hissed. "Have you seen Puffertail? Thornwillow wanted him on the dusk patrol but he was nowhere to be found."

Splashflight and Fluffheart exchanged glances. "No, we haven't seen him anywhere."

"Well, that's interesting, considering what Waterstar found out." Duskclaw snarled.

"What do you-" Fluffheart began but was interrupted by Waterstar.

"RiverClan, as you all know, earlier this day, I went to ShadowClan with Rushingwater to discuss herbs. Icystar asked me if I had seen Cloudsky anywhere. She's missing. Now, how coincidental is it that they're both missing at the same time?"

The Clan was silent.

"Well, that's because they broke the warrior code by going to meet with each other every night," Waterstar announced.

Murmurs and gasps broke out within the Clan.

"How do you have evidence for this?" Redwhisker demanded.

Waterstar's tail twitched. "Someone extremely helpful told me." He rested his gaze on Fluffheart.

The whole Clan looked at Fluffheart with admiration. "You found out?" someone whispered.

Splashflight's eyes widened in horror. He lied! He said he wasn't going to tell anyone!

"Those two have probably left the Clans by now. There's no need to worry about them." Waterstar assured.

Splashflight felt a twinge of guilt. Waterstar would never know that the mates were dead.

"Moving on, we will be making two new warriors into our Clan! Rosepaw, Shinepaw, step forward." Waterstar ordered. He cleared his throat.

"I, Waterstar, leader of RiverClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn. Rosepaw, Shinepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

The apprentices couldn't be more clear. "I do." They meowed together.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior names. Rosepaw, from this moment on you, will be known as Rosedapple. StarClan honors your intelligence and courage, and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan. Shinepaw, from this moment on

you, will be known as Shinewhisker. StarClan honors your strength and compassion, and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan."

Waterstar rested his muzzle on Rosedapple's shoulder and she licked his shoulder in return. Shinewhisker repeated the same thing.

"Rosedapple! Shinewhisker!" the Clan cheered.

"I'm so proud of you my kits!" Sweetpelt yowled.

Splashflight felt like she was forgetting to do something. But she just shrugged it off. After all, it can wait... right?

Chapter 12

Later that night, after the warrior ceremony had ended, Splashflight woke up in StarClan's hunting grounds once again.

But this time, it was not Mothstar who sat in front of her, but a red-colored she-cat with bright green eyes that glinted like emeralds in the moonlight.

"Who are you?" Splashflight asked the she-cat. "I thought Mothstar would be here?" she blinked and tilted her head to the side in confusion.

The she-cat purred in amusement and drew a paw over one ear.

"She is still here young one, but she asked me to give you a message." The strange she-cat mewed.

"Redwing, wait!" another unfamiliar voice rang out.

Splashflight blinked and tilted her head to the side in confusion.

"Huh? Dawnlight? What are you doing here?" Redwing mewed curiously.

Dawnlight blinked her blue eyes at her.

"So, you're gonna tell her the prophecy that Silvershore gave to Goldenflow?"

Redwing nodded. "Yeah, Mothstar told me to tell her the prophecy."

Dawnlight seemed satisfied with this answer, and she sat down with her tail curled over her front paws.

Splashflight just stared quizzically at the two she-cats. "Who's Silvershore?" she asked.

Dawnlight didn't answer. Instead she flicked her tail at Redwing,

who nodded.

"What are you-" Splashflight began but was interrupted by Dawnlight.

"Shh, just be quiet and listen," the ginger and brown spotted she-cat meowed quietly into Splashflight's ear.

Redwing's eyes turned bright white. And when she spoke again, hundreds of voices spoke with her.

"Where the water flows is where you must go.

Follow it until the green grass grows.

There you will find answers to the things you know."

...

Splashflight's eyes snapped open. *What do they mean, 'where the green grass grows?' It's Leaf-bare! Not Greenleaf!*

Splashflight sighed quietly to herself and slowly stood to her paws. She shook out her pelt and patted silently out of the warriors den.

She needed to speak with her father, Waterstar.

She patted over toward the leader's den and stopped in front of the entrance. "Waterstar? May I come in?"

A few seconds later, she heard him respond, "Come in."

Splashflight took a deep breath before entering the den.

"Hello, Splashflight! What can I do for you?"

"Can Saptail and I go on a hunt together? I know she's an elder now, but-" Waterstar stopped her mid sentence.

"I don't see a problem with it," Waterstar meowed with a flick of his tail.

"Thank you, Waterstar." Splashflight dipped her head politely and

dashed out of the leader's den.

Splashflight patted toward the elders den. She needed to talk to her mother, Saptail.

"Saptail?" Splashflight called as she entered the elders den. Her mother looked up from her claws. Aquastorm wasn't there.

"Splashflight! What can I do for you?"

"Well, I wanted to know if you would like to go on a hunt with me? Waterstar said it was okay, and-" Splashflight was once again cut off mid sentence as Saptail smiled warmly at her.

"Of course, Splashflight. I'd love to go on a hunt with you." Saptail purred and stood to her paws, waving her tail in farewell to Firepool before leaving the elders den and following Splashflight out of camp.

...

As the two she-cats trotted silently through the forest in search of prey, Splashflight decided to speak up to break the silence.

"Saptail!"

"Hm?"

Splashflight shuffled her paws together anxiously. She took a deep breath to calm her nerves before looking up into her mother's eyes.

"I was given a prophecy from StarClan. It's regarding Goldenflow."

At hearing the name of the old RiverClan medicine cat, Saptail's eyes narrowed skeptically.

"What prophecy? And how does it relate to Goldenflow?"

Splashflight sighed deeply and stared directly into her mother's eyes.

"Where the water flows is where you must go.

Follow it until the green grass grows.

There you will find answers to the things you know."

Saptail's eyes went wide in both shock and disbelief.

"Splashflight!" Saptail demanded with a sharp meow, "Who gave you this prophecy?"

"A she-cat named Redwing told me. She said that this other StarClan cat named Silvershore gave it to Goldenflow."

Saptail's eyes widened even more at that.

"Silvershore? That's Goldenflow's sister!" she mewed with a sharp gasp. "She died in a terrible fire many moons ago."

"Oh... I wasn't even born yet. I guess that's why I've never heard of her." Splashflight mumbled with a soft sigh and a flick of her tail.

After a few more moments of silence, another question popped into her head.

"Why do you think Goldenflow killed Mothstar?"

"Because there was blood all over her paws and pelt." Saptail hissed in a low tone. "And Waterstar - well, Waterfoot at the time - said that she did it."

Splashflight froze in shock. *Was what Saptail said true? Did Goldenflow really kill Mothstar?*

Splashflight shook her head and stared down at her paws. She needed to find the old RiverClan medicine cat, and she would prove once and for all that her mother and the rest of her clanmates had it all wrong.

She just needed to find the stream in their territory.

But not right now, right now she needed to catch some prey for the Clan and return to camp.

Finding Goldenflow and figuring out Redwing - er - Silvershore's prophecy would have to wait a bit longer. Well, at least until she knew a bit more about who the old RiverClan medicine cat really was.

💗Chapter 13💗

Splashflight trotted back home with Saptail right behind her. They had each caught two mice while out on their little hunting escapade.

They entered the camp and deposited their prey onto what little prey there was on the fresh-kill pile.

Saptail purred and licked the top of Splashflight's head. "Thank you for taking me with you on your hunt." She meowed with a flick of her ears. "It was really fun getting to hunt again." And with those last few words, Saptail turned around and padded back toward the elders den to get some much needed rest.

Splashflight watched her mother go for a few more moments before she turned and patted over toward the medicine den.

She needed to speak with Rushingwater and inform the medicine cat about her dream.

When Splashflight reached the medicine den, she saw Rushingwater inside. He was sorting his array of herbs in the small notches and hollows in the walls. The blue-grey tom sensed her immediately and let out an exasperated breath.

"What are you doing here?"

Splashflight found herself face to face with Rushingwater.

Splashflight shuffled her paws together anxiously. She took a deep breath to calm her nerves before looking up into the medicine cat's eyes.

"I received a message from StarClan."

Rushingwater's eyes went wide in surprise.

"What did StarClan tell you?" he asked her, his eyes narrowed in

thought.

Splashflight sighed. "They gave me a prophecy." She told him truthfully.

Rushingwater just stared at her.

"Well, what's the prophecy?" Rushingwater questioned. Splashflight noticed that there was a hint of nervousness in his voice.

Splashflight repeated the prophecy.

It took a few moments for Rushingwater to get his thoughts in order.

After a few more moments of silence, the medicine cat finally spoke up, albeit in an uneasy tone.

"I'll need some time to think this over. The half-moon is tonight and I'll ask StarClan for guidance on what to do with this information." He mewed mostly to himself.

Splashflight was just about to turn and leave the medicine den, but Rushingwater's mew stopped her.

"And you will be accompanying me on the journey to the Moonpool."

Splashflight just nodded numbly in response.

"Okay, I'll accompany you on your journey, Rushingwater." She meowed, getting an approving nod from said medicine cat.

Rushingwater seemed satisfied by this answer. "You may go now. Take a short rest and meet me back here in front of my den at mid-day."

Splashflight nodded and patted out of the medicine den and towards the warriors den to check on her sister, Streamfrost.

...

Rushingwater was busy preparing traveling herbs for their journey to the Moonpool. "Alright, now I just need some daisies..."

He turned to face Splashflight, who was staring at him expectantly.

"Splashflight! Can you bring me some daisies?"

The blue-grey she-cat nodded and rushed into the corner of the medicine den. She came back a few seconds later with the requested herbs in her jaws.

"Oh, thank you, Splashflight." Rushingwater added as she dropped some daisies at his paws.

Rushingwater nodded approvingly. "You're getting pretty good at this, Splashflight."

Splashflight blushed and ducked her head, modesty getting the best of her as she licked her chest fur self-consciously.

"Okay, now we're all set to go." Rushingwater mewed as he set some herbs down in front of Splashflight. "Here, eat these traveling herbs, they taste less than pleasant but they'll keep your hunger at bay while we pass through ThunderClan territory."

Splashflight nodded before bending her head down and quickly chewing the herbs, wincing and trying not to spit them back out as she swallowed the horrible-tasting plants.

"Yuck! Those taste awful!" Splashflight grumbled under her breath as she drew a paw over her ear. "Let's just go to the Moonpool and get this whole thing over with."

Rushingwater swallowed his own dose of herbs before nodding his head and flicking his tail at Splashflight, signaling her to follow him.

...

It was so dark. But the scent of Rushingwater was clear. Her paws ached. But she couldn't stop: so she pushed onward through the undergrowth. She felt relieved when she saw the Moonpool down

below. *Yes! We're finally here!* Splashflight cheered in her mind.

Rushingwater flicked his tail, signaling for Splashflight to stop. "Okay, we're here," he mewed with a nod toward the starlit pool. "Now lap the icy water and swallow it." The medicine cat instructed her.

Splashflight nodded and did what the medicine cat had instructed her to do.

Splashflight lapped the cold water. As it was falling down her throat she closed her eyes. She opened them to see that she was in StarClan's hunting grounds. A familiar cat was standing in front of her.

"Mothstar!"

The former RiverClan leader simply nodded and flicked her tail in greeting.

"Hello, Splashflight. I have been waiting for you." Was all the StarClan warrior meowed. "I know why you have come: and I'll answer your questions as best as I can."

💝Chapter 14💝

Splashflight awoke in StarClan yet again. But, this time, Rushingwater was with her.

When Splashflight opened her eyes, she saw that she was in StarClan's hunting grounds once again.

A familiar cat was standing in front of her.

"Mothstar!"

Mothstar blinked her brown eyes at her.

"Greetings, Splashflight. And hello, Rushingwater." A familiar voice meowed from behind the two cats.

The two cats spun around to see Mothstar sitting there, her brown eyes gleaming and her tail curled neatly over her paws.

"Rushingwater," Mothstar addressed the blue-grey tom, who met her gaze. "What Waterstar told you about Goldenflow is far from the truth."

Rushingwater's eyes narrowed suspiciously. "What do you mean?" he asked.

Mothstar sighed deeply and stood to her paws. "You two must find Goldenflow."

Splashflight had just opened her mouth to say something, but someone else spoke up before she could get a word in.

"Find the Tribe of Clear Skies!" another voice rang out from the shadows. "That is where you'll find Goldenflow."

It was Redwing who had spoken.

"Redwing!"

Mothstar turned her amber gaze in the former ThunderClan medicine cat's direction.

Mothstar hissed angrily at her. "What are you doing?"

"They need to figure it out on their own!" the former RiverClan leader meowed, her eyes softening a bit as she continued speaking. "We can't just give them all the answers. It's not StarClan's job to metal with those of the living realm."

Redwing rolled her eyes. "I don't see the harm in giving them a small clue, and besides, maybe they'll find the answers that their looking for within the Tribe."

Rushingwater tilted his head to the side. "Wait, hold up! There's another Tribe?" he echoed Redwing's statement.

Redwing purred and flicked an ear. "Yes, the Tribe of Clear Skies." She mewed in a matter-of-fact tone.

"What do you mean? And who, or I guess, what, is this 'Tribe of Clear Skies?'" Splashflight asked the two she-cats in bewilderment.

Mothstar didn't answer. Instead, she started fading.

"Wait! Don't play your StarClan tricks on me! I don't deserve this!"

But it was hopeless. Mothstar was gone. *Ugh, StarClan is so frustrating. Like they want to worn you about something, but they don't. What?*

Splashflight felt a tail on her shoulder. She spun around. It was Redwing.

"Splashflight. You must follow the path that suits you. Not anyone else."

"What does that even mean?"

But Redwing was fading with everything else.

"StarClan will light your path."

...

Splashflight's eyes snapped open and she swiveled her head around to stare at Rushingwater, who had the same baffled look on his face.

"Have you ever heard of The Tribe of Clear Skies?" Splashflight mewed curiously.

Rushingwater turned towards Splashflight.

"Another Tribe? I've heard of The Tribe of Rushing Water, but I've never heard of this Tribe." He meowed with a puzzled look on his face.

Splashflight nodded in agreement. "Yeah, same here. I've never heard of the Tribe of Clear Skies before."

After a short pause, she spoke up once more.

"So, what now?" she asked him curiously.

Rushingwater just stared at her.

"Isn't it obvious? We need to go to the stream in our territory." The medicine cat replied with a glint of amusement in his eyes.

Splashflight slapped a paw to her face and shook her head.

"By StarClan, I'm such a mouse-brain!" she muttered with an annoyed groan.

Rushingwater's whiskers twitched in amusement.

"Yeah, you are." He meowed with a teasing edge to his mew.

Splashflight gave him a dirty look and turned away with a small huff.

"Oh shut up," she hissed angrily at him. "Let's just go back to camp already."

"Alright, let's go!"

Splashflight nodded and the two cats patted back toward their camp.

...

The two cats made their way to the stream in RiverClan's territory. Their pawsteps were completely silent on the snow, not even prey noticed them. They finally found the stream they were looking for.

"Ok, we're here. Wow, look in the opposite direction of the lake! It leads to unknown territory! I can't really see it well though because of the snow." Splashflight observed.

Rushingwater sighed. "I know that Redwing told us to travel together, but I need to stay here." He meowed. "RiverClan can't be left without a medicine cat."

Splashflight nodded her head in understanding.

"You have a good point there." She mewed with a flick of her tail. "We can't leave the Clan without a healer."

"Alright then," Rushingwater mewed with a flick of his tail. "May StarClan light your path."

Splashflight dipped her head to him and turned her gaze toward the sky.

"I'll be back, and hopefully with Goldenflow." She turned back to face Rushingwater, her amber eyes narrowed. "And when I return, you will listen to what your old mentor has to say, do you understand me, Rushingwater?" her voice was low and the glare she gave him sent a shiver down the medicine cat's spine.

"Y-yes, yes of course." He mewed, his eyes meeting hers. "I'll hear her side of the story."

"Good." Was all she said in response. "I'll be on my way, and if the others ask where I've gone, tell them I'm on a journey given to me by StarClan."

Rushingwater sighed softly and nodded, his brown-striped tail

flicking back and forth.

And with that, Splashflight turned away from him and headed south of the lake, just as the first light of dawn arrived.

💝Chapter 15💝

After a long and winding journey, Splashflight had found her way to where she needed to go. Led by a star trail, paved by StarClan, the she-cat's journey was coming to its climax. Splashflight had followed along the stream for several days. And now, she'd come upon an odd sight. A tree, in the middle of leaf-bare, with bright green leaves.

This must be a sign! She thought, glancing around the area. In the near distance, she could see the darkened entrance to a cave, the ground coated with green grass at its mouth. Excitement shot through Splashflight's pelt as she made her way over to the cave. Cautiously, she made her way inside.

After walking a short distance, the smell of many cats made it to her scent glands. And then up ahead she saw them. *Oh wow,* she gasped internally, looking at all the new faces. One stood out to Splashflight the most. An orange she-cat with deep blue eyes, was sitting beside a red tom, with two young cats play-fighting nearby.

The golden one suddenly perked, noticing the visitor. She seemed to recognize Splashflight's scent. "Who are you?" she demanded to know as she jumped to her paws. The two apprentice-aged cats paused in their tussle to look at Splashflight warily. They seemed to be contemplating whether they should flee or stand to protect the older cat.

"My name is Splashflight," the blue-grey she-cat began to explain. "I'm from RiverClan. My mother is Saptail. Are you Goldenflow?" at hearing the names, the orange she-cat lowered her ears a little. *She definitely recognized them. This cat must be Goldenflow.*

"Golden That Flows Through The Stream, do you know this cat?" asked the red tom standing at the she-cats side.

Goldenflow sighed softly and flicked her tail anxiously from left to right. "She's from my old Clan, Fox. She's one of Saptail's kits. She's

my old friend - we grew up together." Goldenflow explained, giving her attention back to the RiverClan she-cat. "How did you find me?"

"StarClan sent me. They told me to bring you home so you can prove your innocence." Splashflight meowed, flicking her ears back and forth as she studied Goldenflow.

Goldenflow's ears flattened against her head. "B-But I've made a new life here!" she mewed in response, looking to the young cats behind her then over to the red tom named Fox. "I can't just leave. And besides, RiverClan thinks I'm a murderer. I'll be killed if I return."

Splashflight gave the former RiverClan medicine cat a small smile. "Don't worry, Goldenflow. StarClan will protect you," Splashflight promised. "And some of the Clan has promised to hear you out." Goldenflow looked from the younger she-cat to her family.

After a moment of silence, she spoke again. "Fine. I'll go back. But my kits and mate have to come, too."

"Well alright then," Splashflight agreed with a flick of her tail. "Now come on, let's get going." Goldenflow and her family spent a little while saying goodbye to their Tribemates, before following the blue-gray she-cat on the multiple days journey to RiverClan.

...

Upon arrival, the Clan cried out in outrage when they saw Goldenflow entering the camp. "Goldenflow? What's she doing here?" Waterstar's voice boomed from across the clearing.

"Yeah, why is that snake-hearted cat-killer here?" another cat snarled in rage. "Who let her in anyway?"

Splashflight winced upon hearing her mother's outraged yowl.

Splashflight stepped up to the older she-catss defense. "She's here to prove her innocence." She replied, shooting her father a sideways glance as she spoke.

"Why should we believe anything that treacherous she-cat has to

say?" one of the cats in the crowd yowled in outrage.

"Because she has StarClan siding with her," a new voice joined the conversation. At one of Goldenflow's flanks, a reddish she-cat stood with her head held high. While on the other she had a ginger and brown spotted she-cat pressing against her. The pair's pelts glimmered with starlight, as if they'd been carved from silverpelt itself. *StarClan warriors!* Splashflight gasped in her mind.

"Goldenflow didn't do it, Waterstar! Mothstar died at her own paws!" mewed the ginger and brown she-cat.

"D-Dawnpaw..." Duskclaw murmured, voice wobbly with sadness.

Dawnlight flicked her tail and gave her brother a gentle smile. "My name is Dawnlight now, brother." She mewed with a playful glint in her eyes.

"It's true," chimed a third StarClan cat, who padded up from behind Fox. "I took my own lives trying to discover Goldenflow's secrets. It was foolish of me, and I've regretted her being blamed." Waterstar stood on the willow tree, mouth agape. He tried to find the words to say, but ended up faltering once more.

"So, does that mean it wasn't as it seemed?" another cat murmured from the crowd. "Goldenflow was innocent this while time?"

"Of course it wasn't!" Goldenflow yowled, her blue eyes glinting with fury and her tail lashing behind her. "No one gave me a chance to explain myself. But now that you know the truth, can I return to RiverClan?" Waterstar looked apprehensive to agree.

Saptail and Splashflight shot him aggressive glares as did the rest of the Clan. They kept it up until finally he caved.

"Alright." Waterstar sighed, knowing he was vastly outnumbered. "You and your family are welcomed to stay in RiverClan with our apologies." And with that, the StarClan cats nodded to Goldenflow and Splashflight before fading out of sight.

"I'm so sorry for doubting you, Goldenflow," Saptail meowed, touching her nose to her friend. "I was being a fox-heart. Can you

forgive me?"

Goldenflow slowly nodded.

Saptail had just opened her mouth to speak but another voice spoke first.

"So, you're Goldenflow?" mewed a voice from behind Saptail. "You're the old RiverClan medicine cat then?"

Goldenflow turned her head to see a blueish-grey she-cat with green eyes patting up to her.

Goldenflow purred in response. "You must be Splashflight's sister, am I right?" she asked the cat in front of her.

The blueish-grey she-cat nodded her head with a flick of her tail. "Yup. I'm Streamfrost, it's a pleasure to meet you, Goldenflow."

"Are these your kits?" Streamfrost asked, her gaze landing on Hunter and Breeze.

"Yes they are, their names are Hunter and Breeze." She meowed with a flick of her tail. "Hunter, Breeze, Fox, come and say hi to my old friend, Saptail." Goldenflow called for her mate and kits to come say hello to her clanmates.

"Does this mean you'll be a medicine cat again?" Saptail mewed with a small tilt of her head. "Or has Waterstar decided yet?"

Goldenflow shrugged. "He hasn't said anything to me about it yet." She said as a matter of response. "But I think my kits and mate will most likely be having a re-naming ceremony to signify their place as true RiverClan cats."

Streamfrost nodded and turned to face the three cats in question. "I think you might be right about that." She meowed, giving the golden she-cat a friendly smile.

Glee filled Splashflight's heart as the Clan began to gather around the new cats that'd joined them. *I did it,* Splashflight thought. *I proved Goldenflow's innocence.*

💝Chapter 16💝

Splashflight was awoken one morning by the feeling of a random cat's paw gently shaking her shoulder.

"Pssst. Hey, Splashflight wake up! Waterstar is calling a Clan meeting."

It was Streamfrost who'd woken her from her sleep.

Splashflight groaned and stood to her paws with a wide yawn. *Why in the name of StarClan is Waterstar calling a Clan meeting so early?* Splashflight grumbled silently to herself as she followed her sister out of the apprentice's den.

As the two she-cats joined the rest of their clanmates at the base of the willow tree, Splashflight gazed around the camp.

But then a flash of golden-yellow fur caught her eye and Splashflight's eyes popped wide open in realization.

How could she forget? It was time for Goldenflow and her family to become real RiverClan cats! (Former RiverClan cat in Goldenflow's case) but still: Splashflight couldn't wait to see what Waterstar had to say about the former RiverClan medicine cat sitting directly below where he was currently standing to address the rest of his Clan.

Waterstar waited until every cat had gathered before he started to speak.

"Attension, cats of RiverClan!" Waterstar began in a loud but clear tone of voice. "As you already know: one of our warriors was sent on a mission by StarClan yesterday," he paused for a few seconds before resting his eyes on his daughter and then to Goldenflow and back again. "And so, with the return of a former clanmate and her family: it 's about time we give them a place amung our ranks!"

Upon hearing those words, many cats began whispering and murmuring anxiously to one another.

"SILENCE!" the blue-gray tomcat yowled. "I, Waterstar, leader of RiverClan, call upon my warrior ansestrrs to look down on these cats and to guide their pawsteps as their new journey takes flight." After Waterstar had finashed speaking, he turned his gaze toward Goldenflow and her family.

"Golsenflow, Fox, Breeze, and Hunter, please come stand under the roots of the willow tree." He flicked his tail tword the base of the tree, watching as Goldenflow's blue eyes flashed with surprise as she gently nudged her mate and kits forward with a small flick of her ears.

Waterstar's eyes narrowed for the briefest of moments as blue eyes met green ones briefly before he shook his head and turned his attention back to his Clan.

After a short pause, the RiverClan leader continued speaking.

"The biggest honor a leader can do is to turn a young kit, or two in this case, into apprentices. Hunter, come forth." The red-colored she-cat looked to her mother for guidince, and with an incouriging nudge from the older she-cat, Hunter's eyes took on a determed glint and she stepped forward.

"Hunter, do you promise to listen to your mentor and uphold the warrior code?"

"I do," Waterstar smiled down at the short-furred fox-ref-pelted she-kit.

"Then, by the powers of StarClan, until this kit has become a warrior, she shall be known as Redpaw. Your father, Foxheart, will be your mentor. Foxheart, you yourself, are also new to our way of life: but I trust you to train Redpaw as best as you can." The RiverClan leader nodded his head toward Goldenflow's mate, who looked like a gaping fish at the moment. "Foxheart, Redpaw, from the look in your eyes alone I can tell that you'll both pick up on Clan life rather quickly."

"I promise to teach this fine young cat all I know," she padded up to the roots of the willow tree and tapped noses with Sunpaw. .

Waterstar then turned his attention to the golem-furred she-kit.

"Breeze, do you promise to listen to your mentor and uphold the warrior code?"

"I do." Breeze mewed confidently, her chocolate brown eyes glinting in the sunlight and her plumy golden tail held high in excitement.

Waterstar smiled at the young she-cats wager anticipation and flicked his tail slowly from left to right.

"Then, until you receive your warrior name, you shall be known as Sunpaw. Yellowtail will be your mentor." Waterstar mewed proudly.

Yellowtail smiled and dipped her head in gratitude. The dar-furres she-cat smiled kindly as she patted over to the base of Highrock and touched noses with Sunpaw .

Sunpaw expected to see hostility in the grey cat's eyes, but she just saw kindness in their amber depths. She tapped her little soft kitten-petal-pink nose lightly with her rough pink-gray one. She looked up and nodded to Waterstar.

"I promise to teach Sunpaw everything I know," she mewed.

"Redpaw! Sunpaw! Redpaw! Sunpaw!" the RiverClan cats cheered, yowling their joy to Silverpelt as they did so.

Once the noise had finally died down enough for Waterstar to speak, the dark brown tomcat leader yowled loudly to get his Clan's attention.

"There is one more ceremony that I must compleate," the dark-furred tomcat meowed, his eyes sweeping over the Clan as he spoke.

After a short pause, the MistClan leader continued speaking.

"Goldenflow," Waterstar meowed, making the orange-colored she-cat turn to face him. "Is it you wish to follow the path of StarClan, and to regain your ranks in this Clan as a medicine cat of RiverClan alongside your former apprentice?"

Goldenflow nodded her head and smiled proydly up at her Clan leader. "I swear to StarClan that U"I'll be the best medicine cat that I can be! And I will serve this Clan with mt life until the day I die!"

Waterstar nodded in response. "Clan meeting dismissed," Waters-tar meowed, leaping off the willow tree branch and patting into his den with Thornwillow.

Sunpaw felt she might burst with happiness. *I'm finally an apprentice!* she thought, and padded over to sit beside her new mentor to start her training.

💝Epilogue💝

Lightkit stood outside the nursery, squirming with excitement. It was her apprentice ceremony!

"All cats that can swim please gather underneath the willow tree for a Clan meeting!" Waterstar yowled.

Lightkit looked back at Blazekit, Streamfrost's only kit, and sighed. Blazekit was only a quarter moon old: she won't be an apprentice anytime soon. But her littermates will. Darkkit, Palekit, and Soulkit flanked her as Lightkit marched towards the willow tree.

"These kits have reached the age of six moons and are ready to be apprenticed. Lightkit, from this day on, until you have earned your warrior name, you will be known as Lightpaw. Your mentor will be Splashflight. I hope Splashflight will pass down all she knows onto you."

Splashflight walked up to Waterstar.

"Splashflight," Waterstar began. "You are ready to take on an apprentice. You have received excellent training from Firepool, and you have shown yourself to be energetic and determined. You will be the mentor of Lightpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to her."

Lightpaw eagerly touched noses with her mentor. She waited impatiently for her littermates to get their mentors. Darkpaw got Shinewhisker, Palepaw got Fluffheart, and Soulpaw got Rosedapple.

"Don't worry," Splashflight whispered to her. "I'll teach you the best I can. Even if it means to risk my life."